

# **UPDATE**

## **Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholarships (CSEMS)**

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<http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/ehr/duet/programs/csems/csems.htm>

### **Background.**

The Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholarships (CSEMS) are authorized by the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998, which was passed as part of the massive omnibus spending package for FY 1999 (H.R. 4328) - approved by Congress just prior to adjournment of the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will provide one or two-year grants to colleges and universities to provide support for educational opportunities to low-income, academically talented students through scholarships. Support is provided to students who are working full time toward associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees in computer science, computer technology, engineering, engineering technology, and mathematics. U.S. Department of Education criteria for Pell grants and for Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program are used to determine financial eligibility. The funds for this program are derived from a fee that U.S. employers pay to the Federal government for each high technology immigrant employee they employ under the terms of an H-1B visa application. Additional funds are to be provided in FY 2000 and FY 2001. This program is managed by NSF's Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR).

### **Criteria.**

Students must be pursuing an accredited associate, bachelors or graduate degree, full time, in computer science, engineering, mathematics, computer technology or engineering technology. Students must be determined as eligible in each term that they receive a scholarship. Scholarship recipients must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, refugee aliens or permanent resident aliens.

### **Current Status.**

The deadline for submitting proposals was August 30, 1999. Approximately 280 proposals were received - all via NSF's FastLane system - from 48 states and territories requesting a total of about \$50.5 million. Institutions submitting proposals include two-year, four-year, and graduate, as well as public and private schools. NSF expects to make 100 awards totaling approximately \$18.4 million for this competition. The merit review process will take place during late fall, with awards expected in early 2000.